

The Brooklyn Paper

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AWP/16 pages • Vol. 36, No. 44 • November 1-7, 2013 • FREE

BAM IN BKLYN

President makes flying visit, praises school that came out of controversial Bloomberg policies

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn is really hot right now, sez the prez.

President Obama staged a whirlwind visit last Friday, flying into Prospect Park in a helicopter, speaking at a Crown Heights high school, and stopping by Junior's Restaurant for cheesecake. And in the middle of it all, the former Park Slope resident and current commander-in-chief echoed what Borough President Markowitz has been crowing for years, saying that the borough is hipper now than ever before.

"When I lived in Brooklyn, it was cool, but it wasn't this cool," Obama told the crowd gathered at Pathways



President Obama's helicopter touches down in Prospect Park's Long Meadow.

for Technology Early College.

The nation's chief executive called Second Street home for a spell after graduating from Columbia University in 1984 and, speaking last Friday, he pointed to the centerpiece of the controversial Atlantic Yards project as proof of our improved stature as a hip capital.

"The Barclays Center hadn't been built yet," he said.

Obama's apartment was a half a block from Prospect Park, so it must have been satisfying for him to return in a helicopter that, as this paper predicted, touched down in the middle of the park's ball fields. From there, he rode over to Pathways, a public high

See **OBAMA** on page 6



President Obama and Democratic mayoral nominee Bill DeBlasio stop by Junior's Restaurant to pick up some cheesecake during the commander-in-chief's Oct. 25 visit.



Basset love

Sarah Crystal of Park Slope got acquainted with two basset hounds at a gathering of the long-faced dogs in Prospect Park. See story on page 14.

Planners okay Pulaski bike path

Bridge plan would replace lane of car traffic, end cyclist-pedestrian chaos

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Move over, Queens car commuters.

The city's planning commission green-lighted a new, separated bike path on the Pulaski Bridge that would take over a lane of automotive traffic and end a chaotic arrangement that has walkers sharing space with fast-moving two-wheelers. A local pol hailed the approval.

"With the upcoming creation of a dedicated bike lane on the Pulaski Bridge, pedestrians and cyclists will not only travel safer, but more efficiently," said Assemblyman Joe Lentol, who proposed the lane change on the link be-



With a new separated bike lane, bicyclists on the Pulaski Bridge will no longer have to dodge pedestrians.



tween Greenpoint and its northern neighbor last year.

The bike lane would run along the Manhattan side of the bridge over Newtown Creek, running separately from the one sidewalk where bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians currently travel in both directions, sharing a tight space and struggling to avoid collisions. The rejiggering will cut car traffic from six to five lanes, which Lentol says is not a bad thing.

"Another indirect added benefit the dedicated bike lane might create involves slowing down motorists that speed south-bound over the Pulaski Bridge at sometimes twice the speed limit," he said.

The city will have a bigger challenge than usual designing this bike lane because the span the divider will run across is a drawbridge that opens and closes frequently.

Lentol said he anticipated that the city will bring the design to Community Board 1 for approval by the end of the year.

If the plan passes, construction on the bike lane will commence in the spring of 2014.

Slopers really feeling the burn

Say the CrossFit gym next door is like an earthquake every morning

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

Neighbors of a Park Slope gym that specializes in a worldwide workout craze say that fitness buffs are making their lives a living hell by tossing big barbells to the ground and grunting loudly throughout the early morning hours.

Residents of a Fifth Avenue apartment building next door to a CrossFit gym near 22nd Street say that they can hear the guttural cries from their bedrooms and that the up-to-300-pound weights land so hard that both buildings shake. The pre-dawn cacophony wakes neighbors and has some saying that



Fifth Avenue resident Jena Battaglia says that the early-morning racket caused by weightlifters who drop their barbells at CrossFit 718 is waking her up.

if the fitness center does not end the noise, they might pack up and leave.

"I put my pillow over my head and hope that it stops, but it doesn't," Jena Battaglia, who lives on the third floor of the brick rowhouse that shares a wall with the health club. "I love my apartment so much, but if this doesn't stop I will have to move out."

The fitness center is one of a purported 7,000 to push the brutal, full-body CrossFit routine, which has gym rats run, jump, row on machines, throw medicine balls, flip tractor-trailer tires, climb ropes, tote thick chains, and lift big weights.

The Slope location offers private training for \$100 an hour and, for those parents looking to pump up their progeny, kids' sessions for \$300 a pop. The workout program is so extreme and so popular that some critics have called it a cult.

The Fifth Avenue outlet CrossFit 718 began its stay in the neighborhood on a sour note when it opened two years ago in a one-story industrial building that was illegally converted from a storage facility, for which the landlord still owes the city \$10,000 for failing to file permits, according to public records.

See **NOISE** on page 14



An HBO crew transformed Milton Street in Greenpoint into a 19th-century town, complete with horses, buggies, and dirt roads.

Getting dirty

Greenpointers furious after HBO crew fills their street with soil

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Entertainment is a dirty business.

That is what a group of Greenpointers that has often railed against the presence of film crews in its neighborhood is saying after a crew shooting a pilot for an historical HBO series dumped tons of dirt on sleepy Milton Street, then washed it down storm drains. The whole thing felt like an act of war, according to one neighbor.

"It was like being occupied by a foreign nation," said neighbor Bill

Rohan, adding that the film crew violated his disabled parking permit by towing his car to a nearby block. "My blood pressure was definitely up that day."

Last Wednesday's shoot took over three blocks, removed all the street signs, and brought more than 100 crew members and a stable of horses to the area, residents said. The parting hose-down left the block a muddy mess, according to residents.

"They left a river of mud and now it is a dustbowl," said film-shoot accountability activist Rolf Carle. "There is dirt everywhere."

See **DIRT** on page 12

Prenatal yoga — in a bar

Quirky hybrid Bushwick biz has moms bellying up

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

What do you get when you combine a yoga studio and a hot-dog-serving bar? If you answered "pregnant," you were close.

Bushwick's Cobra Club made headlines last year when it first paired yoga with booze and gourmet frankfurters, but it has now upped the ante by offering yoga classes for pregnant ladies and new moms and their tots. Participants say that the pre- and neonatal

stretch sessions are a recipe for little yoga masters.

"We get very silly," teacher Ria Cooper said of her toddler classes. "We play music and freeze yoga. We go on imaginary adventures and sometimes we go to Old MacDonald's farm."

The business on Wyckoff Avenue near Jefferson Street disturbed a few chakras among devotees of the Hindu-derived form of exercise when it opened last year with a saloon in the front and a meditation station in the back, but its

owners say that students around the borough often find themselves hard up for a place to socialize over the hair of the downward dog after class. And given the proliferation of high-priced strollers that has accompanied the rapid gentrification of the neighborhood, the addition of classes for tots and the not-yet-born to the bar that is a cafe by day was as natural a progression as a sun salutation, one owner told us.

"In the past year, we have had a lot of

See **YOGA** on page 14



Nikki Coch, the very pregnant owner of the Cobra Club.



Making bank

The world-famous street artist Banksy made a visit to Coney Island on Sunday night and Karla Maldonado was one of dozens of graffiti-philos who rushed to the corner of Stillwell and Neptune avenues to see his latest work.

It's beginning to look a lot like Xmas

As seasonal lights go up early, it's All Hallows' Christmas Eve in Brooklyn

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

It's the most wonderful time of the year — Halloween?

Most Brooklynites are just cleaning up after trick-or-treaters — but some of the borough's commercial corridors are already decking the halls. Christmas decorations are up on Fifth Avenue in Bay Ridge and Sunset Park and along Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill two months and two Judeo-American holidays — counting Hanukkah — early. But the business groups that finance the festive lights say it is not about getting people to start their Yuletide shopping early.

The business improvement dis-



Festive decorations are already up on Atlantic Avenue.

trict representing stores along the Bay Ridge corridor — where snowflake lights are currently competing with banners proclaiming "Fall on Fifth" — said it contracts a private company to dress up the avenue for the Santa season and leaders of the group said that the decorators do not like stringing lights in the November climate.

"The answer is one word: weather," said business improvement district president Jim Clark. "Once it gets cold and rainy, it gets very hard to put them up."

But Clark said he still thinks the ornaments make a fun and festive addition to the thoroughfare — even in the middle of fall.

"It tells people that Christmas

and the holidays are upon us," said Clark, adding he was unable to recall if the lights had gone up this early in the past.

Some Christmas light contractors said that they start hauling out the holly around Halloween to make sure that they cover all the streets in the city before it's too late.

"Customers wouldn't get them up till later in December, or even after Christmas, if we didn't start putting them up now," said Brittney Migliaccio, a manager at the Bushwick-based Illuminations by Arnold, which has already suspended snowflakes over Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill.

Migliaccio said her company

See **XMAS** on page 14

Re-elect

Brooklyn’s D.A.

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FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Brooklyn’s District Attorney

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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

Nets’ big men lookin’ better

FRONT COURT
By Tom Lafe

As the Nets enter their second season in Brooklyn, they come in with a new coach, and a revamped roster that many say will make the team a contender. Of course, the Frontcourt will play the biggest role in determining if this season will end in disappointment or elation. Let’s take a look at who’s who and what we can expect from the most important players on the Barclays Center’s hardwood.

Brook Lopez: Coming off his first All-Star appearance and his best season as a professional, Lopez is poised for a season that will vault him into the NBA’s elite. As I wrote at the beginning of last season, Lopez’s offensive game was never a concern, however, his rim defense and rebounding posed questions. Well, his re-

bounding remained stagnant an unimpressive for a seven-footer, as he averaged only 6.9 points per game. I’d like to see him return to the form that netted him more than the eight points-per-game he posted in his first two seasons. Lopez’s rim defense, on the other hand, improved dramatically as he averaged 2.1 blocks per game during the regular season and three per game in the playoffs. In the offseason, Lopez had another surgery on his right foot to repair a problem with a previously inserted screw. Though minor, it is something to pay attention to as the season progresses.

Kevin Garnett: One of the key offseason acquisitions is the perfect one for these Nets. The Big Ticket may not be the same offensive threat he was in his prime — though his mid-range jumper is still as effective as anyone’s—but that doesn’t change the intensity he brings on the defensive side of the ball. As one of the best rebounders going, KG



Kevin Garnett will play a big role on the Nets Frontcourt.

will take some pressure off Lopez to pull down boards. Additionally, with Garnett owning the high post, Lopez will draw fewer double-teams and have more room to operate in the low post — an option not available to the Nets last season. With the Nets limiting KG’s minutes thanks to a deep front-court bench, Garnett will be rested and ready for a long playoff run.

Andray Blatche: Blatche had a career resurgence in Brooklyn last season, earning a new, lucrative contract. He will continue to spell Lopez off the bench at the five spot. Like Lopez, Blatche doesn’t provide the stoutest defense, but his scoring off the bench will be essential for a team with title aspirations, especially as they look to rest an aging Garnett regularly.

Reggie Evans: The Pensacola kid returns to Brooklyn for a second year, and with the additions of Garnett and An-

See FRONT on page 12

The old-new guards

BACK COURT
By Matt Spolar

If you followed the NBA at all this offseason, you know these Brooklyn Nets aren’t like last year’s model. Somewhere in Boston, a bell tolled for the veteran trio of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, and Jason Terry, and the addition of those three big names has transformed the face of the borough’s second-year franchise.

But the more things change, the greater the emphasis is on the things that stay the same. For Brooklyn’s Backcourt, the peripheral personnel is almost entirely new, but the core — the star duo of point guard Deron Williams and shooting guard Joe Johnson — remains in place.

Here’s a breakdown of



Nets fans better hope Tyshawn Taylor drives and shoots better than he tweets.

what to expect from Brooklyn’s all-important Backcourt this season:

Deron Williams: Our main man couldn’t find his touch during the first half of last season, then got platelet-rich plasma injected into his ankles and started playing like an All-Star again.

Will he hit the ground running this time or will the trainers at Barclays need to come equipped with syringes of plasma?

Joe Johnson: Iso Joe will never live up to his contract, but he should be better than last year. His one-on-one style can slow

things down, but he proved time and again that he’s the man the Nets want with the ball at the end of the game. The Bostononians will keep Johnson from having to be a team leader — he’s never seemed to embrace that role anyway — and let him focus on sharpening his game in an evolving offense.

Paul Pierce: Like Joe, The Truth tends to spend a lot of time with the ball when he gets it, and in Boston he was the last-shot guy. But here in Brooklyn, there are only so many shots to go around. How Pierce fits in will be one of the more interesting storylines this year.

Jason Terry: The aging Jet disappointed in his only season in Boston, but he could be key to Brooklyn’s success. He’s still an elite shooter, and his ability to spot up could provide much-desired efficiency.

Shaun Livingston: A sneaky pickup by the Nets to serve as D-Will’s backup, the 6-foot-7 journeyman has unique length for a point

See BACK on page 12

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Man stole Magic cards from store: Cops

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

Cops cuffed a man who they say stole Magic: The Gathering cards from a store on Court Street on Oct. 25.

The suspect stole three packs of cards from the shop near Schermerhorn Street at 1:50 pm, cops said.

Hand and glove

Police arrested a suspect who they say was caught on camera stealing gloves from a Fulton Street convenience store on Oct. 23.

A security guard at the store near Smith Street told cops that when he tried to stop the perp from leaving with the stolen gloves at 10:45 pm, the sticky-fingered perp punched him.

— **Jaime Lutz**

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope

Coach harms

A brazen assailant seized a woman's Coach bag from her while she was sitting on a stoop outside of a Fifth Avenue apartment on Oct. 27, cops said

The 37-year-old victim told police that she was sitting on the stoop near President Street at 3:55 am to make a phone call, when she placed her bag on the ground between her feet.

Minutes later, a woman grabbed her black purse — containing her wallet, credit

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and debit cards, makeup, and \$100 — and ran off, cops said.

The bandit made her getaway in black car that was parked on President Street and Fourth Avenue, according to a police report.

HerPhone

A quick-handed teenager snatched a woman's iPhone 5 right out of her hand while she was inside the Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center train station on Oct. 23, cops said.

The victim told police she walking to the B and Q train platform at 9 pm when a pink-vest-wearing girl grabbed the phone and ran off towards Hanson Place.

Big heist

A burglar stole more man than \$12,000 worth of goods from a man's Fifth Avenue apartment on Oct. 21, cops said.

The 33-year-old victim told cops that he left his abode between Fourth and Fifth streets at 9 am for work, and, when he returned about eight hours later, he noticed that a bunch of items — including a \$3,000 Canon camera, camera lens, three MacBooks, two iPads, an iPod, a Tiffany necklace, a sapphire ring, and \$100 — was missing.

Vroom vroom

A thief stole a man's Kawasaki motorcycle that he left parked on 13th Street sometime overnight on Oct. 15, cops said.

The victim told police that

he left his black ride on the street between Second and Third avenues at 8 pm and, when he returned the next morning, his gray motorbike was missing.

Bad work day

Someone burglarized a Dean Street apartment, and made off with an assortment of the three residents' electronics and jewelry on Oct. 25, cops said.

The three lady roommates told cops that they left the pad between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 8:45 am for work and, when one of the women returned about nine hours later, she noticed that the front door to the apartment was loose.

The crook got away with two MacBooks, a silver ring adorned with an onyx stone, two sets of earrings, two silver bracelets, a brass bracelet, and an iPhone, cops said.

Time out

A bandit burglarized a man's 15th Street apartment and made off with a few pricey items on Oct. 24, cops said.

The 34-year-old victim told officers that he left his residence between Fourth and Fifth avenues to go grocery shopping at 1:30 pm and came back less than two hours later to find a rear window open and his iPad and three high-end watches gone.

Fast cash

A swift criminal grabbed \$140 out of a man's hand while he was smoking a cigarette on Atlantic Avenue on

POLICE BLOTTER

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Oct. 27, cops said.

The 26-year-old victim told police that he was standing near Fort Greene Place at 7 pm with his money in hand, shortly after leaving a store, when the hooded figure snatched the cash and fled towards Flatbush Avenue, according to a police report.

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Phoned in

A pair of punks tried — and failed — to pluck a woman's Apple iPhone on 91st Street on Oct. 24, police said.

Credit crunch

A crook broke the window of a man's car that was parked on 11th Street and stole a credit card that was inside the glove box sometime overnight on Oct. 26, cops said.

The 41-year-old victim told cops that he parked his ride on the street between Second and Third avenues at 7 pm. When he returned the next day at about 7 am, he noticed that the front passenger-side window was broken and the credit card was gone, according to police.

Now you see it

A speedy bandit stole a woman's backpack while she was shopping inside an Atlantic Avenue department store on Oct. 23, cops said.

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook

Bitter coffee

Cops cuffed a woman who they say threw a coffee cup at her victim on Oct. 28 on President Street.

The woman and victim were near Sackett Street at 2:06 pm when the suspect charged at her victim and punched and scratched the person, according to cops..

Beauty bust

Police arrested a woman who they allege took beauty products from a Smith Street store without paying for them on Oct. 24.

She was caught in the act at the store near Warren Street at 6:25 pm, cops said.

— **Jaime Lutz**

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Phoned in

A pair of punks tried — and failed — to pluck a woman's Apple iPhone on 91st Street on Oct. 24, police said.

The victim told cops she was talking on her mobile device near Fourth Avenue at 2:50 am when the the would-be crooks ran up and tried to grab the gadget away. A struggle ensued, but the woman held on to her phone, cops said.

No breakfast

A burglar made off with thousands of dollars in Tiffany jewelry from a Colonial Road home on Oct. 21, according to cops.

The victim reported that she left her home between 88th and 89th streets at 9 am, and returned at 4:30 pm to discovered that an invader had jimmied her daughter's bedroom window open.

Inside, she found the house ransacked, and a Tiffany and Co.-brand necklace, bracelet, and ring missing, according to police.

Fruit loop

A masked thug held up a Third Avenue produce market on Oct. 23, authorities said.

The storekeeper said the fiend ran into the business at the corner of Ovington Avenue with a mask over his head and a gun in his hand at 4:39 am and demanded the victim open the till. The bandit grabbed an uncounted amount of cash before fleeing, cops said.

cameras show the grab-happy duo came into the shop between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 11:30 am, and grabbed two of the gadgets before scrambling and speeding off in the direction of Dyker Heights in a white BMW, according to cops.

Up in smoke

A crook swiped thousands in cash and swag from an unlocked car on Third Avenue while the owner was inside a nearby hookah bar on Oct. 26, cops reported.

The victim said she left her vehicle near the corner of 70th Street at 10:13 pm with her expensive belongings in the backseat and without securing the doors, and went to enjoy some herbal shisha.

When she came back out at 12:30 am, she found the two designer bags, iPad, Blackbury, Chanel perfume, two quartz necklaces, two cans of hairspray, checkbook, passport, and \$260 in cash all gone, cops said.

— **Will Bredderman**

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint–Northside

Drinking profits

Cops busted a guy who worked for a Bridgewater Street wholesale shipper for supposedly pouring several liters of expensive vodka into his own bottles and then sending off the empties from Sept. 27 through Oct. 25.

The manager of the shipper between Apollo Street and Meeker Avenue told police that he witnessed the man take several liters of vodka off the pallets, dump the spirit into his own bottles, and put the empties back on the pallets before shipping them off.

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The District Attorney's Office charged him with five counts of petit larceny and five counts of criminal possession of stolen property.

Hairy situation

Police arrested a man who they say stole four shavers from a Manhattan Avenue drug store on Oct. 25.

The man walked into the drug store between Meserole and Calyer streets at 6 pm and put three Norelco shavers and one Braun shaver into his backpack, then tried to

walk out of the store without paying for them, prosecutors said.

The District Attorney's Office charged him with petit larceny and criminal possession of stolen property.

Ring, ring

Police arrested a man who they say stole a ring worth \$3,000 from his friend's Kent Avenue house on Oct. 22 and then sold it to a pawn shop.

The woman who lived at the apartment between N. Fourth and N. Fifth streets noticed that her ring was missing that day at 12:05 pm and asked the man who had been staying at her house if he took it — and he admitted that he did, according to prosecutors.

The district attorney charged the man with criminal larceny, criminal possession of stolen property, grand larceny and petit larceny.

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick

Bloody revenge

Cops say they finally arrested a suspect for a Graham Avenue bodega burglary and automated teller machine theft in January after matching blood found at the scene.

The man broke into the convenience store between Boerum and Seigel streets sometime between 11 pm on Jan. 19 and 7:50 am on Jan. 20, prosecutors said.

The owner of the building told police that he locked the basement door before he left that night and, when he got back in the morning, the basement door was ripped

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Bloody revenge

Cops say they finally arrested a suspect for a Graham Avenue bodega burglary and automated teller machine theft in January after matching blood found at the scene.

The man broke into the convenience store between Boerum and Seigel streets sometime between 11 pm on Jan. 19 and 7:50 am on Jan. 20, prosecutors said.

The owner of the building told police that he locked the basement door before he left that night and, when he got back in the morning, the basement door was ripped

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Activists: Prosecute state officials for LICH disaster

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

The state's management of Long Island College Hospital is not malpractice, it is homicide, say doctors who renewed calls to criminally prosecute state officials for their handling of the hospital at a meeting of a Cobble Hill neighborhood group on Monday night.

The outcry came hours after the State University of New York, which manages the medical center and has been trying to shutter it since February, canceled the lay-off of 500 staffers, but that was not nearly enough to appease the activists who claim that the state has been trying to kill the 155-year-old Cobble Hill institution to sell off the valuable real estate beneath it, in clear violation of court orders.

"The Cobble Hill Association is very interested in criminal proceedings," said Jeff Strabone, a member of the group, drawing applause from the crowd interspersed with chants of "Lock 'em up!"

Advocates for the hospital

have claimed that the state is in contempt of court for months, pointing to the repeated steps it took to reduce services at the health care facility in the face of court orders banning any such moves.

Calls for prosecution have grown louder as Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Johnny Lee Baynes has deferred ruling on whether state officials are in contempt, which could result in fines and even jail time, and employees have faced firing, according to hospital advocates. Hospital workers and outraged neighbors say that punishment is the only way to deter state officials who have repeatedly ignored judges' formal scoldings, which the activists say amounts to an obvious crime.

"Order after order was entered, upheld, and violated by SUNY," said Jim Walden, a lawyer for Public Advocate and Democratic mayoral nominee Bill DeBlasio, who has been arrested protesting the closure.

"Holding a state agency in contempt of court is in my opinion the only thing



Critics say Gov. Cuomo's underlings are managing Long Island College Hospital to death.

that will make SUNY follow the law."

Judge Baynes has scheduled a Nov. 18 hearing to decide on whether the state management team is in contempt of court after months of delays, Walden said, adding that he has witnesses lined up to testify that the state intentionally sabotaged the hospital and fraudulently paid former hospital operator Continuum Health Partners \$2-million per month to handle billing, which he says Continuum never did.

In a second court case that could decide the fate of the beleaguered hospital — this one handled by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Carolyn Demarest — advocates plan to argue that the state has been sabotaging the institution since

taking over in 2011.

The outcry continues despite the fact that the state allowed ambulances back at the hospital and is supposed to be out of the picture sometime soon due to a bombshell ruling by Demarest that stripped it of authority over the place.

Last week, Baynes-appointed hospital watchdog Jon Beral told this newspaper that the state took over the hospital as part of an "evil" plot to sell it to luxury developers and that a new operator might take over as soon as this week. The land beneath the institution could be worth as much as \$500-million, according to real estate experts, but state officials claim to be losing millions every month keeping the doors open.

OBAMA...

Continued from page 1
school operated in partnership with the City University of New York and IBM.

His visit to Pathways inadvertently put the spotlight on the ongoing controversy over Mayor Bloomberg's policy of shoe-horning new schools into existing ones, which has been raging in the waning days of his mayorship as his Department of Education moves to finalize a slew of new so-called co-locations, often over the opposition of parents and teachers.

Addressing a crowd of students, teachers, and reporters, President Obama praised Pathways for offering a six-year, technology-focused program that allows students to earn associate's degrees in computer science and engineering. Mayor Bloomberg, who was in attendance with Democratic mayoral nominee Bill DeBlasio, praised the president's educational pol-

icies. Obama later called on Congress to pass a universal prekindergarten law, drawing enthusiastic nods from DeBlasio, who has proposed such a set-up for New York. Unmentioned was the fact that when Pathways opened in 2011 in the Paul Robeson High School building, Paul Robeson began to close.

The doomed school opened in 1989 with a structure similar to Pathways', operating in partnership with Bloomberg's first Wall Street employer Salomon Brothers, which provided students one-on-one mentorships with financial services workers, internship opportunities, and college test preparation. In 1992, Fortune Magazine called the school's early results "encouraging." But by 2005, the school was reportedly overcrowded as a direct result of Bloomberg's shift to focusing on new, smaller schools and, two years ago, it found itself on the mayor's



President Obama rolls past Grand Army Plaza in the presidential motorcade.

closure list.

DeBlasio opposed the shuttering in his role as public advocate and has called for a moratorium on so-called co-locations as part of his mayoral campaign. It is unclear if it came up when he accompanied the president to Junior's for some sweets.

Paul Robeson is still in the process of being phased out and houses a handful of students and teachers who have access to an ever-decreasing share of the facility, but the

high school's replacement has not been around long enough to have its performance fully measured.

Pathways Principal Rashid Davis acknowledged that fact at the ceremony but said that Obama's visit was proof enough his staff is doing things right. At the moment, though, Pathways is under-performing in at least one subject, scoring in the bottom 25 percent on English tests when compared to similar schools.

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Marrying Figaro!

Three opera companies perform Mozart's classic

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

Fans of “The Marriage of Figaro,” you have a tough decision to make. This month, three different Brooklyn opera companies will be performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Lorenzo da Ponte’s comic tale of love, jealousy, and deception, with productions by upstarts LoftOpera and Opera in the Slope, alongside Bay Ridge stalwart Regina Opera Company. The timing is pure coincidence, though not so unusual — “Figaro” is the eighth most-performed opera in the world, according to opera database Operabase, and its arias are recognizable even to those who have never set foot in an opera house. “Anybody who’s ever seen or heard the word ‘opera’ has heard of ‘The Marriage of Figaro,’” said Fran Garber, chair of the Regina Opera Company, whose production kicks off with a free preview in on Nov. 12. “Some operas have one or two hit tunes — this has eight or nine.” For LoftOpera, an “underground” opera company that launched in the spring with a production of Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” “Figaro” was a reliable choice for its sophomore show because of this audience familiarity. “It’s really attractive because it is so well-known,” said LoftOpera founder Daniel Ellis-Ferris, whose production runs Nov. 7-9 in Gownus. “People know that if they go to something titled ‘the Marriage of Figaro,’ they’re going to enjoy it.” Clocking in at almost four hours, most companies today choose to abridge the complicated story to keep up with modern attention spans. Still, for Regina, whose production is the longest of the three, it was important to be as faithful as possible to the original — in both the libretto and the costumes. Opera in the Slope will be taking some theatrical license with its set. Producer Carlos Jimeno is building a giant house of cards, which he says symbolizes the fragile society of the day and class differences emphasized in the drama.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Photo by Athens Azevedo



Photo by Steve Solomonsen

Scenes from rehearsal: (Clockwise from top right) Regina Opera Company’s “Marriage” is the longest of the three versions being performed in Brooklyn this month. Upstart LoftOpera will explore the drawing room comedy in a refurbished Gownus warehouse. Members of Opera in the Slope show off fancy duds scored from a City Opera auction.

ble to the original — in both the libretto and the costumes. Opera in the Slope will be taking some theatrical license with its set. Producer

Carlos Jimeno is building a giant house of cards, which he says symbolizes the fragile society of the day and class differences emphasized in the drama.

Figaro fisticuffs: Tale of the tape

Let’s get ready to rumble! It will be an operatic battle royale in Brooklyn this month when three competing companies face off with different performances of the Mozart classic “The Marriage of Figaro.” Rising stars LoftOpera and Opera in the Slope will slug it out against veteran heavyweight Regina Opera Company. Pound-for-pound, Regina has its opponents on the ropes, but we expect these novices to come out swinging right from the bell. Which company’s corner should you be in? Let’s go to the tape.

COMPANY	REGINA OPERA COMPANY	LOFTOPERA	OPERA IN THE SLOPE
Founded	1970	2013	2013
Approach	Faithful	Immersive party	Metaphorical
Venue	Auditorium stage	Refurbished warehouse	Church hall
Orchestra	35-piece	24-piece	11-piece
Concessions	Coffee and cookies	TBD	Beer and wine
Cost	\$20-\$25	\$20	\$15-\$18
Subtitles	Projected	Projected	None
Running time	4 hours	2 hours	1.5 hours
Fun fact	Famous performers such as Dolora Zajick have passed through its doors, so the next big opera star could be on stage	LoftOpera’s Figaro, Pini Gruber, will also understudy this production	Scored its “Figaro” costumes from a City Opera auction



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SHOPPING

Poetry barn

Roses are red, but DUMBO is no longer blue now that it has the city's only poetry store.

Berl's Brooklyn Poetry Shop focuses on creative, unconventional poetry books from small, independent press houses that would not find a market in most bookstores.

"We are trying to shine a light on book art and chap books," said co-owner Jared White. "We are curating a small selection of books that are interesting and important to us."

The store also plans to host poetry as often as possible, starting with a massive grand opening party that will feature at least 25 readings.

Co-owners White and his wife, Farrah Field, started Berl's in 2011 as a tiny booth among all the other artisans at Brooklyn Flea. A few months ago, the inventory had grown so large that the couple realized they needed a storefront to keep their business' momentum moving forward.

"Brooklyn has a rich history of poetry and we want to keep that going," said White.

Grand opening party at Berl's Brooklyn Poetry Shop [126A Front St., at Pearl Street, (347) 687-2375, www.berlsbrooklynpoetryshop.blogspot.com.] 3pm on Saturday, Nov. 2. Free.

— Danielle Furfaro



Photo by Cassandra Giraldo

ART

Leafy scenes

Take a picture, it will last longer — especially when the subject matter is biodegradable.

In “Genius Loci,” a new art exhibition at Park Slope’s 440 Gallery, Bay Ridge artist Tom Bovo captures fall before it can disappear by collecting leaves from all over Brooklyn and photographing them in an ethereal light.

A highly appropriate show for the season of shedding trees, Bovo’s photos will change the way you see fall flora. If the brilliancy of Mother Nature’s palette doesn’t move you, perhaps the unveiled detail will.

The photos appear in both color and black and white. Bovo believes the vivid hues can be a distraction.

“Sometimes the color is so compelling, it makes it harder to see other interesting things in the images,” said the artist.

Bovo developed his own method of preserving and capturing the unique aesthetic details of the leaves he collected.

“Genius Loci” at 440 Gallery [440 Sixth Ave, (718) 499-3844, www.440gallery.com/] Gallery hours: Thurs and Fri 4-7 pm, Sat and Sun 11 am-7 pm.

— Samathan Lim



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

MUSIC

Zombie Cash

It turns out Johnny Cash really does walk the line — between alive and dead, that is.

The legendary country singer will rise from the grave in the form of Brooklyn musician Steve Sasso, who portrays a zombified version of the country star in satirical tribute show “Zombie Cash” at the Jalopy Theatre on Nov. 1. Also performing live, in a manner of speaking, will be Bob “Bloody Tracks” Dylan and Roy “Gorebison.”

“It’s like a Halloween threesome,” said Sasso, who is also the vocalist of self-proclaimed “old-timey” band the Booboo Danger.

“Zombie Cash” made its debut last Halloween, featuring spooky spoofs on classic Cash songs, like the “Cry, Cry, Cry” parody “Die, Die, Die.” It was supposed to be a one-time thing, but Sasso said the show’s surprise success inspired him to reanimate its corpse once again — and to write a few new tunes for the occasion.

Zombie Dylan, also known as musician Wyndham Baird, and Zombie Orbinson, portrayed by an open mic king known only as Pete, are also new additions to the show, while Booboo Danger vocalist and pianist Aviva Jaye will bring June Carter Cash back from the dead for a second year.

“Zombie Cash” at the Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Redhook, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz]. Nov. 1, 9 pm, \$10.

— Megan Riesz




Photo by Carlos Varon

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
November 1

Ladies' night

For those still mourning the loss of Lilith Fair, Tinderbox Music Festival packs 17 female artists and female-fronted bands into the Music Hall of Williamsburg for one huge show across two stages. San Francisco weirdo art rockers Deerhoof headline, plus plenty of local talent, including the folksy stylings of Lady Lamb and the Beekkeeper, and post-punkers Butter the Children.

5 pm at the Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 North Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486–5400, www.musicallof-williamsburg.com] \$20.

SATURDAY
November 2

Pie style

Have your pie and eat it too, when the owners of Gowanus pie shop Four and Twenty Blackbirds sign copies of their new cookbook, "The Four & Twenty Blackbirds Pie Book," and slice up free pie samples at Smorgasburg Williamsburg. Find them at the Greenlight Bookstore booth, then feed your pie-hole.

12:30 pm at Smorgasburg Williamsburg at East River State Park (90 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, www.smorgasburg.com.)

TUESDAY
November 5

Pun times

Connoisseurs of dad jokes — and the actual dads who make them — finally get their time to shine at Punderdome 3000, a monthly contest at Littlefield where punny people are rewarded for their groan-inducing wordplay. Only 18 individuals or duos can compete, so pun, don't walk, to make sure you're first in line.

7:30 pm at Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Third Avenues, in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388, www.littlefieldnyc.com] \$6–\$7.

WEDNESDAY
November 6

Hashtag hilarity

Rob Delaney lays claim to being "the funniest man on Twitter." Is he equally hilarious in print and in real life? Answer both questions at the Powerhouse Arena, when the LA-based comedian launches his new book, "Rob Delaney: Mother. Wife. Sister. Human. Warrior. Falcon. Yardstick. Turban."

7 pm at Powerhouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666–3049, www.powerhousearena.com]. Free.

THURSDAY
November 7

Eye on Springfield

What is Mr. Burns' blood type? What was the name of Lisa Simpson's pony? If you remember the answers to these questions, you just might have a chance at Woo Hoo! — Berry Park's monthly classic Simpsons trivia night. Questions are only about episodes from the '90s, so dust off those old "Teachers Editions" and study up.

7:30 pm at Berry Park [4 Berry St. between 14th and N. 13th Streets in Williamsburg, (718) 782-2829, www.berry-parkbk.com] \$10 per team, \$5 solo players.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, NOV. 1

MEMORY SCREENING:

No appointment necessary. Free. SPRI Clinical Trials [3044 Coney Island Ave. at Neptune Avenue, Second Floor in Coney Island, (646) 747–4061], www.spristudy.com.

ART, "PANGAEA":

Exhibition of work by artists from around the world, all living and working in New York City. Free. 9:30 am–5:30 pm. New York Foundation for the Arts [20 Jay St. at Plymouth Street; Suite 740 in DUMBO].

ART, "FOR & ABOUT:

Art & Reactions to Superstorm Sandy": Multiple local artists commemorate the first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy. Free. 11 am–5 pm. BAC Gallery [111 Front St. near Washington Street in DUMBO, (718) 625–0080], www.brooklynartscouncil.org.

AART, "THE GOWANUS SHOW":

Juried group exhibition featuring artists living and/or working in the Gowanus area. Free. Noon–7 pm. Ground Floor Gallery [343 Fifth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 801–3338], www.groundfloorbk.com.

MUSICAL SHABBAT:

Welcome in shabbat with singing and stories, followed by a Western-themed dinner. RSVP by Oct. 29. \$20 (\$25 non-members, \$10 children). 6:30 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [405 81st St. at Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 836–3103], bayridgejewish-center.org.

MUSIC, OPEN STAGE:

Open mic for all types of musicians to perform original or improvisational music. \$5. 7 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln Place and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 622–3300], www.bqcm.org.

THEATER, "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM":

Theatre for a New Audience's inaugural production, directed by Julie Taymor. \$75–\$100. 7:30 pm. Polonsky Shakespeare Center [262 Ashland Pl. at Fulton Street in Fort Greene], www.tfana.org.

THEATER, "JULIUS CAESAR":

Women of Donmar Warehouse do Shakespeare's classic with an all-female cast. \$55–\$75. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse [29 Jay St. between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 254–8779], www.stannwarehouse.org.

MUSIC, ROTTEN APPLE ROOTS AND BLUEGRASS HALLOWEEN:

With Hackensaw Boys, Morgan O'Kane, Union Street Preservation Society, and more. \$16 (\$14 in advance). 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouse.ny.

THEATER, "TWELVE ANGRY MEN":

The Heights Players perform Reginald Rose's play. \$20 (\$18 seniors and children under 18). 8 pm. Heights Players [26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237–2752], www.heightsplayers.org.

SAT, NOV. 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

HUNT FOR WILD PERSIMMONS:

Led by naturalist/author "Wildman" Steve Brill. RSVP required at least 24 hours in advance. \$20 (\$10 children) suggested donation. 11:45 am. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope).

TOUR, SUBWAY ART:

Led by the MTA Arts for Transit & Urban Design. RSVP required. Free. 1–3 pm. Atlantic Terminal (Atlantic and Flatbush avenues in Fort Greene).

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP":

Puppet adaptation of the most famous of the 1001 tales of the Arabian Nights. \$9 (\$8 children). 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965–3391], www.puppetworks.org.

DANCE, "STEPZ":

Award-winning dancer Savion Glover performs. \$36–\$45. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenter-online.org.

MUSIC, KATHY SUPOVE:

\$25. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln Place and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 622–3300], www.bqcm.org.

MUSIC, SEA OF SCARVES, Z&A, ODKA, DEAD JETSETTER:

Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

GREENMARKET:

Free. 8 am–3 pm. Walgreens (Third Avenue at 95th Street in Bay Ridge), www.growny.org/greenmarket-site/brooklyn/bay-ridge-greenmarket.

FALL FLEA MARKET:

25 cents. 9:30 am. The Salvation Army [252 86th St. between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 238–2991].

OTHER

MEMORY SCREENING:

See Friday, Nov. 1.

ART, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS:

In TRANSITION": Artists, activists, architects, designers, and urban theorists consider differing visions of an ideal city through the "concrete" example of Brooklyn. Free. 11 am–4 pm. Old Stone House [Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets in Park Slope, (718) 768–3195], brooklynutopias.wordpress.com/upcoming-exhibitions.

ART, "THE GAMES WE PLAYED":

Throwback-themed exhibition featuring urban artists, including Jamel Shabazz. Free. 11 am–7 pm. House of Art Gallery [408 Marcus Garvey Blvd. at Hasley Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 663–8195], www.hoagallery.com.

OPEN ICE SKATING:

Break out the blades and start practicing your jumps. \$9 (\$5 skate rental). 1–3:30 pm. Abe Stark Ice Skating Rink [West 19th Street and the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (718) 946–6536].

ART, ROCOCO SOCIAL:

Art-mixer-dance-party night presented by GreenpointGalleries.org. Free. 9

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Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

pm. Coko66 [66 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint, (917) 807–6045], GreenpointGalleries.org.

'90S HIP-HOP AND R&B SING-ALONG:

Night includes '90s-themed cocktails, freestyle rap competition, costume contest, and dance-off. \$8. 10:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallny.com.

SUN, NOV. 3

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WILLIAMSBURG FLEA:

Explore goods and food from more than 150 vendors. Free. 10 am–5 pm. East River State Park (90 Kent Ave. at N. Seventh Street in Williamsburg), www.brooklynflea.com.

FARMERS MARKET:

Brought to you by Down to Earth. 10 am–5 pm. The Old Stone House (Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue in Park Slope), downtoearthmarkets.com.

SMORGASBURG:

Indulge in food from more than 100 vendors at this all-food market. Free. 11 am–6 pm. East River State Park (90 Kent Ave. at N. Seventh Street in Williamsburg), www.brooklynflea.com.

PERFORMANCE

DANCE, "FOREVER TANGO":

Luis Bravo's dance spectacular, featuring an all-Argentine cast of 14 dancers and an 11-piece orchestra. \$30–\$35. 3 pm. On Stage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5596], www.onstageatkingsborough.org.

MUSIC, CENTRAL BROOKLYN JAZZ CONSORTIUM:

The group celebrates 14 years. With Lesedi Ntsane and Bakithi Kumalo. \$35 (\$25 in advance). 4–8 pm. Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation [1368 Fulton St. between Marcy and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (800) 838–3006], www.brownpapertickets.com/event/455255.

MUSIC, NIK TURNER:

Founding member of the UK space-rock band Hawkwind performs. \$15. 8 pm. Saint Vitus Bar [1120 Manhattan Ave. at Clay Street in Greenpoint], www.saintvitusbar.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

UNDERGROUND THRIFT STORE:

Browse a curated collection of upscale and designer clothing and accessories as well as collectibles for the home. A percentage of proceeds benefits organizations that fight human trafficking. Free. 12:30–4:30 pm. Plymouth Church

See 9 DAYS on page 10

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Published weekly at
1 Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn NY 11201 (718) 260–2500

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Boys be mild!

Duo tones down ‘Kama Sutra’

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

This new book is “adults only” — but its content is decidedly PG-13.

An author-illustrator duo are celebrating the release of their new book, “The Married Kama Sutra,” at BookCourt on Nov. 4, where they’ll discuss their toned-down spoof of the ancient Hindu sex manual and the positions described within, which they say anyone can accomplish



without much trouble — mostly because none of them involve actual coitus.

“I think a lot of the positions of the ‘Kama Sutra’ set the bar a little too high,” said the author of “The Married Kama Sutra” and Cobble Hill resident, Simon Rich. “We’re attempting to write a more realistic update.”

To that end, Rich, along with his long-time friend and illustrator Farley Katz, have adapted the spirit of the original tome — an illustrated guide for couples with evocatively-titled positions such as “the rest of the warrior” and “the union



Moderately Rich: Simon Rich, love expert and author of “Married Kama Sutra,” will make a dramatic appearance at BookCourt alongside his trusty illustrator, Farley Katz. Pictured right, The man, the mustache: Farley Katz, illustrator of “the Married Kama Sutra,” poses alongside his very fine facial hair. He’ll appear alongside Simon Rich at BookCourt to promote their new love manual.



shifting of the standards.”
“The positions in ‘The Married Kama Sutra’ are very attainable,” said Katz.
In fact, the closest the book ever comes to actual love-making is when its long-suffering illustrated couple enters into the intimate realm of the bathroom shower with romantic intentions, but their plan backfires when they actually look at one another.
“They go in to take an erotic shower, but after looking at each other, it quickly degenerates into just a regular shower,” Rich explained.
After dozens of collaborations, the pair said “The Married Kama Sutra” is their tamest work to date.

“Most of our early efforts were too obscene,” said Rich. “But ‘The Married Kama Sutra’ is sort of the opposite of obscene.”
“Once we started putting clothes on people,” Katz added, “we started getting accepted more.”

Meet the creators of “The Married Kama Sutra” at BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875–3677, www.bookcourt.com] Nov. 4, 7 pm.

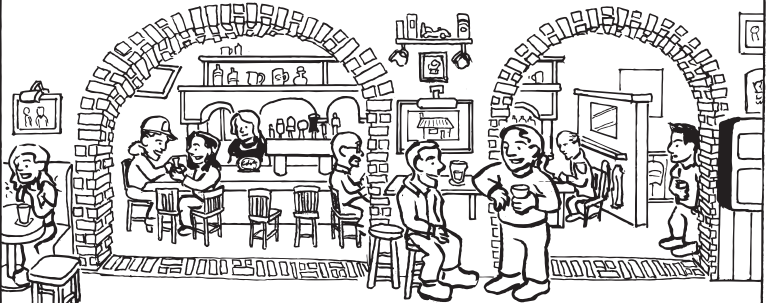
BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

Head to the end of Bay Ridge and you’ll find the Irish bar and lounge Kitty Kiernans.



Inside is a handsome space of dark wood, red walls, and a marble bar top. The drinks are just what you’d expect (Guinness, cider, whisky). It’s the colorful cast of long-time regulars that makes it stand out.



Sit at the bar for an hour and half the crowd will introduce themselves. *
If you want to drink alone you can sit in the lounge.

*Some of the drunker members may do this more than once.

Kitty Kiernans [9715 3rd Ave., between 97th Street and Marine Avenue in Bay Ridge. (718) 921-0217, www.kittykiernans.com.] Open Mon–Sat, 10 am–4 am; Sun, noon–4 am.

of the elephant” — and applied it to a tongue-in-cheek look at the less-sexy realities of modern marriage.

So where the original “Kama Sutra” might advocate an anatomically im-

probable bedroom technique, “The Married Kama Sutra” settles for a more hands-off activity, such as: “When a man passes gas in front of the woman, without so much as an apology, it is called ‘the

Weekend reads

Booksellers give their top picks

WORD’s pick

“Five Days at Memorial” by Sheri Fink: Like David Simon’s “The Wire” and Dave Cullen’s “Columbine,” “Five Days at Memorial” is about all of the moral dilemmas that emerge during a massive tragedy — in this case, a storm-ravaged hospital during Hurricane Katrina. Fink, both a physician and journalist, does a remarkable job of remaining neutral, while reporting a story of heroes and villains (often in the same person) and no shortage of drama. As is often the result of the best investigative journalism, it was hard to read sometimes, but utterly riveting.

— Emily Pullen, WORD [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383–0096, www.word-brooklyn.com].

BookMark’s pick

“Killing Jesus” by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard: Following on from “Killing Kennedy” and “Killing



Lincoln,” Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard have teamed up again to write about another major historical death: Jesus of Nazareth. “Killing Jesus” explores not only the religious climate at the time of the crucifixion, but the political turmoil occurring as well. Even though I took issue with a few religious discrepancies — including a questionable portrayal of Mary Magdalene — the political narrative of this book very

accurate.
— Bina Valenzano, co-owner, The BookMark Shoppe [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833–5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].

Greenlight’s pick

“The Dark Path” by Toby Barlow: David Schickler is the author of “Kissing in Manhattan” and “Sweet and Vicious” — “Saturday night stories,” as he calls them, full of sex and violence and adventure. Schickler’s memoir, though, is about the pull of Sunday morning: his loving Catholic family, his desire to become a priest, and the conflict that creates with his art and his love for the women in his life.

— Emily Russo, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246–0200, www.greenlight-bookstore.com].

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Slurp’s up Downtown

Ganso serves innovative ramen

By Will Levitt
for The Brooklyn Paper

Ramen is as complex a study as any art-form in Japanese culture. Though the popularity of the trendy noodle soup has now reached boiling point, the intricacies of the dish make it a difficult one for any chef to truly master. There are regional variations, different approaches to the broth, myriad ways to prepare the noodles, and additions like grilled meats, eggs and vegetables to wrap your head around. Finding a ramen shop that does it all well, even in Brooklyn, is not easy. But a collaboration between Brooklyn-born food writer Harris Salat and Japanese-born chef Ryuji Irie has given rise to Ganso, a ramen joint that takes its craft seriously in a space that’s informal, buzzing, and cool on an otherwise sleepy street



Soup-er: The spicy miso ramen at Downtown’s Ganso.

Downtown. “I love ramen,” said Salat, “and I’ve been to Japan a million times.” Salat, who has co-authored three books on Japanese cooking, wanted to bring the delicious and diverse ramen dishes he discovered while traveling and working in Japan home with him. He was tired of only

seeing tonkotsu-style ramen — marked by its rich, milky broth — on local menus, and decided to introduce Brooklynites to something new. “I wanted to focus on a different style of ramen,” said Salat, who opened Ganso late last year. “In Japan there are dozens of ramen. One of my favorites is Tokyo-style ramen, a totally different ramen; a clear ramen with a soy sauce base.” Though the restaurant nails every component of the dish — the noodles, made in New Jersey and delivered to the restaurant daily are particularly slurpable — it’s the broth at Ganso that really separates it from other ramen-slinging shops around the city.

The menu offers five different ramen options, each with a slightly different base. The Ganso ramen (\$13) features the classic soy sauce broth along with succulent braised pork shoulder and belly, boiled egg, and seasonal greens. Richer still is the short-rib ramen (\$15), made with a beef-based broth full of the meaty, complex, umami flavors that Salat strives for in his ramen. But best of all is the spicy miso ramen (\$14), a kicked-up variation on the Ganso ramen made with chili and miso, which is difficult to put down until every noodle and every last drop of broth has been inhaled.

While ramen is undoubtedly Ganso’s star attraction, the eatery’s other options should not be overlooked. Here, too, Salat and Irie take popular Asian dishes and re-focus them with a slightly different preparation than expected. Crispy gyoza (\$7), filled with juicy pork and garlic chives, are sticky, juicy dumplings that are wonderful dipped in chili-oil soy sauce. Buta kimchi buns (\$9) are Irie’s take on the now super-trendy snack bao, steamed buns which the chef stuffs with a combination of braised pork belly, jalapeno kimchi, crisp slices of cucumber, and spicy mayo, that is at once spicy, fatty, and crunchy.

And expect things to get even more innovative from here. This week, Ganso is launching a new vegetarian dish that fuses traditional Japanese ramen with the Chinese tofu dish mabo dofu.

“It’s so flavorful,” promised Salat. “People dig it. I dig it.” Ganso [25 Bond St. at Livingston Street in Downtown, (718) 403-0900, www.gansonyc.com] Sun to Thurs, noon–10 pm; Fri and Sat, noon–11 pm.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

[65 Hicks St. between Orange and Cranberry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 829-4923], aki.smugmug.com/Brooklyn/Plymouth-Underground-Store/19205133_

MON, NOV. 4

READING, ANNE HELLMAN AND MICHEL ARNAUD: Authors of “Design Brooklyn.” **Free.** 7–9 pm. Power-House Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

TALK, RICK AND MICHAEL MAST: Authors of “Mast Brothers Chocolate: A Family Cookbook.” Includes cooking demonstrations. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200], greenlightbookstore.com.

TUES, NOV. 5

ELECTION DAY FUN: Children learn about voting and then participate in their own election. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am–12:30 pm and 2:30–3:30 pm. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

MUSIC, CAMILLE HARRIS: The artist celebrates the release of her first EP, “Silly Jazz,” by hosting a variety show featuring stand-up, storytelling, and other music comedians. \$5. 8 pm. Union Pool [484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609-0484], www.myspace.com/unionpool.

WED, NOV. 6

MUSIC, CITY STOMP: Free with a dinner reservation. 5 pm and 6:30 pm. Dizzy’s Diner [230 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 230-5551].

BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES: For beginners of all ages. **Free.** 6–9 pm. FIAO Beacon Community Center at IS 96 [99 Avenue P. between W. 11th and W. 12th streets in Bensonhurst, (718) 232-2266].

READING, ARIN GREENWOOD: Author of “Save the Enemy.” **Free.** 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE: \$54.50–\$200. 8 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

THURS, NOV. 7

DIWALI: Celebrate the Indian Festival of Lights. Free with museum admission.

11:30 am–12:30 pm and 2:30–3:30 pm. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

THEATER, “ALMOST MAINE”: A romantic comedy performed by dramatic students. \$15. 7 pm. Xavierian High School [7100 Shore Rd. at 71st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 759-5728].

READING, PETE HAMILL:

Author of “ries, The Christmas Kid.” **Free.** 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

THEATER, “FATI’S LAST DANCE”: Off-beat comedy for teens and up written by France-Luce Benson. \$15–\$25 (children and seniors \$12–\$15). 8 pm. Billie Holiday Theatre [1368 Fulton St. between Marcy and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-0918], www.thebillieholiday.org.

MUSIC, “THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO”: LoftOpera presents Mozart’s opera, accompanied by Brooklyn Brewery beer and a 25-piece orchestra. \$20. 8 pm. Gowanus Loft [61 Ninth St. between Smith and Second Avenue, Loft C8 in Gowanus, (347) 763-2210], www.gowanusloft.com.

COMEDY, JEN KIRKMAN: The comedian does a live taping of her podcast, “I Seem Fun,” as part of the New York Comedy Festival. \$15. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-house.org.

FRI, NOV. 8

ART, “WAR/PHOTOGRAPHY: Images of Armed Conflict and Its Aftermath”: Explores the experience of war with an unprecedented collection of 400 photographic prints, books, magazines, albums, and camera equipment. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, “FACE TIME: New Portraiture Now”: A mixed-media exploration of contemporary portraiture. **Free.** Noon–7 pm. Ground Floor Gallery [343 Fifth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope], www.ground-floorbk.com.

COMEDY, THE GRAWLIX: Performing as part of the New York Comedy Festival. \$12 (\$10 in advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

WASABASSCO’S NINTH ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA: Night One: The burlesque troupe celebrates with more than 30 performers in two nights. \$20. 8:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-

house.org. **KARAOKE KILLED THE CAT:** A karaoke dance party for people who never thought they’d like karaoke. **Free.** Midnight. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], karaokekilledthecat.com.

SAT, NOV. 9

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FORT GREENE FLEA: Explore goods and food from more than 150 vendors. **Free.** 10 am–5 pm. Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School (Lafayette Ave. between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues in Fort Greene), tfana.org/education/public-programs.

TOUR, DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN CULTURAL DISTRICT: Walking tour lead by historian Cezar Del Valle. **Free.** 10 am–noon. BAM’s Peter Jay Sharp Building (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene), tfana.org/education/public-programs.

READING, ANDY RICKER: Author of “Pok Pok: Food and Stories from the Streets, Homes, and Roadside Restaurants of Thailand.” **Free.** 12:30–2:30 pm. East River State Park (90 Kent Ave. at N. Seventh Street in Williamsburg), www.brooklynfllea.com.

BLOCK PARTY: Children of all ages have fun playing with big blocks and building imaginary castles. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am–12:30 pm. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

TOTEM POLES: Children 5 years and older listen to stories that celebrate nature and learn about the world’s largest pole at 173 feet tall in British Columbia. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am–noon. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

DREAMCATCHERS: Children listen to Ojibwa tales of how Asibikaashi or Spider Woman weaved her web to catch bad dreams. Free with museum admission. 2:30–3:30 pm. Brooklyn Children’s Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

SUN, NOV. 10

FARMERS MARKET: Brought to you by Down to Earth. 11 am–4 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6 (Atlantic Avenue and Furman Street in Brooklyn Heights), downtoearthmarkets.com.

THEATER, THEATRE-SPORTS: Improvisational show for children of all ages. \$10. Noon. The Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 595-0547].

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Educational development

City Tech breaks ground on site once slated for Ratner’s tower

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

The New York City College of Technology broke ground last week on an academic building Downtown in the lot where its antiquated Klitgord Auditorium once stood.

The new eight-story facility on Jay Street near Tillary Street is meant to accommodate a growing student body, which officials say has increased by half in the last 12 years.



This rendering shows the plan for New York City College of Technology's planned new Jay Street academic building.

“We’re far below the recommended ratio of square footage needed to serve that number of students,” said Stephen Soiffer, an assistant to the college president.

The new building will include laboratories, classrooms, offices, health clinics, common areas, a 1,000-seat auditorium, and an 800-seat gym.

The school projects that construction will wrap up in spring 2017 — and administrators eager to see the new

building go up are not shedding any tears for the old one-story auditorium.

“Klitgord was probably the largest undeveloped footprint in Downtown Brooklyn,” said Stephen Soiffer, an assistant to the university president.

That standout feature made the property attractive to mega-developer Bruce Ratner, who once planned to partner with City Tech to build the city’s tallest residential tower, a 100-story skyscraper called Mr. Brooklyn, on the site.

That plan died in the early days of the Great Recession when the school backed out over cost concerns and decided to push ahead on its own.

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Marty: New Childs theater will help poor

By Will Bredderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz is now pitching his controversial Coney Island amphitheater plan as an economic development project for the neighborhood’s impoverished residential area

—where locals have attacked the project and complained of being neglected in favor of amusements.

“All of this for them,” said Markowitz in a presentation to the City Planning Commission about the project he hopes will be a permanent home for his seaside summer concert series.

The Beep argued at the Oct. 23 hearing that sinking \$50 million in city funds into transforming the empty, landmarked Childs Building on the Boardwalk into an upscale eatery and concert venue would benefit residents by ensuring con-

tinued public investment in the area.

“This will continue to focus the city’s attention on the dire needs of Coney Island,” Markowitz told the commission, the oversight agency which will vote on whether to approve the project in December.

Markowitz claimed that the new restaurant and concert space would spark investment in new housing and local businesses by bringing even bigger crowds into Coney Island.

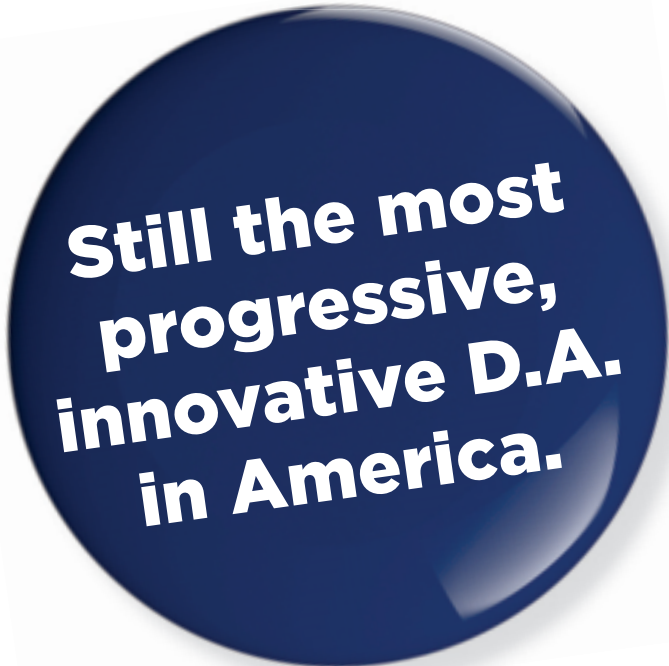
The pol said this would mean more tax revenue, and would force the city to re-

pair and maintain the People’s Playground’s long-suffering public infrastructure.

Coney residents have complained for years that the local sewer system backs up and floods the streets during rainstorms — and to especially devastating effect during Hurricane Sandy.

Joe Hynes for Brooklyn District Attorney, and a safer Brooklyn!

Our **Kings County District Attorney Charles (Joe) Hynes**, who has represented us wisely for the past 24 years, is in no small way responsible for our progress towards public safety and the security that we seek in these troubled times.



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Remember to vote Charles ‘Joe’ Hynes on November 5th for Brooklyn District Attorney on Lines ‘B’ and ‘C’.

Lenny Schwartz

Emanuel Urzi

Arthur Katz

About the undersigned:

Lenny Schwartz: Chairman of the Association of Cigarette Tax Collection Agents and Chairman of the Pension and Welfare Fund of The Teamsters Local 805, representing Brooklyn workers and Chairman of the NYS Association of Wholesalers Marketers and Distributors.

Arthur Katz: Currently is the Executive Director of the NYSAWMD, having served in the NYPD for 33 years as Executive Officer 41 pct. (Fort Apache), commanding officer 61 and 71 pcts. Commanding Officer Operations Division, Executive Officer Major Case and Commanding Officer safe, loft and truck.

Emanuel Urzi: Currently is the V.P. for enforcement of the NYSAWMD, having served in the New York State Tax Department for 48 years; 45 of which assigned to the Criminal Enforcement Division as, Chief Excise Tax Investigator, Chief of Internal Affairs and Special Investigations, Director of Cigarette Tax Bureau, Director of Tax Investigations, special assistant.

Uniqlo opens in mall

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

Japanese clothing giant Uniqlo drew throngs of shoppers to the Atlantic Terminal Mall for the grand opening of its first Brooklyn outpost last Friday.

Fans of the retail chain waited in line for more than 20 minutes to get their mitts on new clothes at the massive new store on the second floor of the Fort Greene shopping center across the street from the Barclays Center. Couture-conscious Brooklynites browsing the aisles said they were glad that they no longer have to trek to Manhattan for their favorite threads.

“It’s very exciting to have it close by — it’s more convenient,” said Bensonhurst resident Jin Lin, who is a fan of the Japanese chain’s “ultra light” down jackets.

Uniqlo honchos said that the Atlantic Terminal Mall was the perfect place to open the chain store, which is known for offering natty casual wear at cheaper prices (jeans sometimes go for \$20



Mayra Paige loves Uniqlo’s “ultra light” winter wear.

than similar retailers.

“Brooklyn and the Atlantic Terminal are a great destination for the Uniqlo brand and an especially good fit for the rich culture and diversity of the borough,” said Larry Meyer, chief operating officer of the company.

Borough residents said that Uniqlo is a welcome addition to the mall that include Victoria’s Secret, Target, Bath and Body Works, and Marshall’s.

“It will draw a lot more people to the area who wouldn’t normally come to the Target,” said Suzette Hunte of Bedford-Stuyvesant, adding that the opening of the store is the latest sign of how the neighborhood surrounding the Barclays Center is gentrifying.

“This is riding the wave of it all and further cementing the fact that big chain stores don’t have to open in Manhattan and that Brooklyn is a viable place to set up shop,” she said.

Globally there are more than 1,200 Uniqlo stores, with 854 in Japan and three in Manhattan.



Fox & friends

(Above) Kris Alam, of Ditmas Park, greeted the animals at the Prospect Park Zoo’s “Boo at the Zoo” Halloween extravaganza on Oct. 27. (Left) Jason Joseph of Sheepshead Bay said that his 10-month-old son Jaden couldn’t get enough of the Halloween fun.

DIRT...

Continued from page 1

City spokeswoman Marybeth Ihle claims that what Greenpointers describe could not have happened because the Home Box Office workers covered the storm drains as they always do, but she said that the city is working to address the complaints.

The production team did not return calls for comment, but network employees did return to the area on Friday to spray down the dirt with pressure washers once again.

The cable channel is keeping details of the test production under wraps but some locals fear what might happen if it decides to make the show into a series.

“Are they going to start coming back here every week and disrupting everyone’s day-to-day lives?” asked Rich J. Mazur.

But the aggrieved neighbor saw a silver lining in the experience.

“At least the kids got to play with the horses,” Mazur said.



Neighbors say an HBO shoot for an historical series pilot left their street a mess.

FRONT...

Continued from page 3

drei Kirilenko, he will be asked to take a reserve role, which is perfectly suitable for his game. He will come off the bench for 10 to 15 minutes per game and do what he does best: rebound, agitate, and wreak havoc on the opponent. I can’t wait until KG and Evans see minutes together.

Andrei Kirilenko: It has been well documented that AK47 has taken a significant pay cut to come play for fellow countryman, and Nets owner, Mikhail Prokhorov. Without speculating on Russian oligarchs, I’ll just say that I’m happy to have Andrei on board. He had a renaissance campaign last season in Minnesota, and he now joins a deep Nets Frontcourt on which he’ll have a crucial role to play: spell Garnett (and sometimes Pierce). Kirilenko will provide valu-

able minutes off the bench, keeping starters well-rested through the long season.

Mason Plumlee: The Duke product and the Nets first-round draft pick has received positive reviews throughout training camp. However, as he comes into a group of established veterans chasing a championship, he may not see the floor much. And that’s okay. The Nets are not in a position where their first-round pick needs to be an impact player right away. Plumlee comes into an ideal situation where he can learn from Lopez, Garnett, et al, so if the Nets ever do need him this season, he will be ready.

Mirza Teletovic: Teletovic got some time last season to start at the power forward position in an attempt to provide some much needed scoring from the four spot and

he did very little with it. But there probably won’t be much opportunity for him to see significant minutes thanks to the addition of KG.

Tornike Shengelia: Toko is pretty much an unknown commodity at this point, having averaged only 4.9 minutes in 19 appearances last

season. He hasn’t played this preseason as he rehabs off-season knee surgery.

Tom Lefe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team’s big men.

BACK...

Continued from page 3

guard and has already impressed in preseason.

Tyshawn Taylor: Like many young players, the Kansas phenom chronicled his rookie season on Twitter last year, and his struggle to adjust to life on the bench led to some particularly despondent posts. But he has shown flashes of exciting athleticism and on Oct. 26 sent out an encouraging tweet: “Sometime the only pep talk you need ... is one from yourself.”

Alan Anderson: Anderson has been bouncing around for years, but can still be a threat when hot. He dropped 35 points — including six threes — on the Knicks with Toronto last season. Brooklyn will take any spark he can provide off the bench.

Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team’s top-tier guards.

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They’re all ears

Big day for basset hounds in Prospect Park

By Natalie Musumeci
The Brooklyn Paper

There ain't no party like a basset hound party.

A bunch of long-faced pooches and the people who love them converged in Prospect Park on Sunday for the third annual Brooklyn Basset Hound Meet-Up, hosted by the North Park Slope Basset As-

sociation. Yes, there is such an organization, and boy, were its members excited about this event.

“It was so much fun. There were floppy-eared dogs everywhere,” said organizer Kerry Geise of Park Slope, who has brought his 3-year-old pup Higgins to the gathering of droopy-eyed, short-

legged purebreds every year so far.

It is a passion for the odd-looking animals that keeps him and the others coming back, Geise said.

“Most basset owners are obsessed with their bassets,” he said, explaining that it is fun to compare notes about the quirks of their droopy

canine companions.

Geise said that he and his husband bonded with other droopy-dog aficionados over how Higgins has a tendency to howl when left alone — a common trait in the dogs — and how the pup will only sit in a specific spot on the couch. Learning the funny names of other bassets, such as Broccoli, Hampton, Buckley, and George, is also a part of the draw, he said.

About 15 of the dogs and as many as 40 of their human companions turned out for the Hush Puppy huddle in Brooklyn's backyard.



Buckley mixed and mingled with his breed.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

YOGA...

Continued from page 1

parents come by with their kids for coffee,” said owner Nikki Coch, who is nine months pregnant. “There are a lot of families moving to Bushwick and I want to make this a nice, relaxing place.”

Religious feelings were far from the minds of many of the pregnant women in the class, who said they signed up just to keep in shape and keep the discomfort of carrying a child at bay.

“My experience with the pre-natal yoga is so gentle and my doctor is so encouraging,” said Christine Selhi. “When you’re pregnant, you’re constantly out of breath and constantly sore, so you need something to counteract that.”

And the Cobra Club might be home to a yoga studio and a bar, but spirits and spirituality are two things that do not mix for the moms and moms-to-be, Coch said.

“They aren’t having a shot of whiskey on the way out with their toddler,” she said.

The Cobra Club [6 Wyckoff Ave. between Jefferson and Troutman streets in Bushwick, (917) 719-1138, www.cobraclubbk.com].

NOISE...

Continued from page 1

The rec center has been an unwanted alarm clock ever since, say neighbors. And once the racket begins, sometimes as early as 6 am on weekdays and 8 am on weekends, it only gets worse, according to neighbors.

“You feel these vibrations every time they slam the weights down and then babies start crying and dogs start barking,” Battaglia said.

Residents also complain about the thud of semi-truck wheels tumbling over on the rubber-lined floor and the shouts of trainers leading cardio exercises on the sidewalk out front, but their gripes are not limited to noise. The harried apartment-dwellers say that the dropped barbells fall with such force that they are afraid it will crack the walls.

“It’s been a nightmare,” said 27-year Fifth Avenue resident Edwin Torres. “It’s so bad the walls shake. It might eventually start causing structural issues.”

Neighbors say that they have repeatedly complained to the city, police, and the owner of the CrossFit outpost, but that their gripes continue to fall upon deaf ears.

A patron of the hated health club cops to letting weights fly, but said that sometimes dead-lifting gets so strenuous that he has no choice but to let go.

“At the end of a high-intensity workout you just don’t have anything else left in the tank,” said CrossFit regular Mike Soffer, who pumps iron as heavy as 300 pounds. “You shouldn’t drop [the weights], but a lot of the times you can’t help it.”

CrossFit 718 owner Israel Gonzalez did not return repeated calls for comment, but a Williamsburg gym owner facing remarkably similar complaints last year said that, beyond padding the floors, which it appears that Gonzalez has, there is not much else that can be done.

XMAS...

Continued from page 1

has only a few competitors — including the Bronx’s Christmas Lights and Decorating, which brightens up Fifth Avenue — and has to cover hundreds of blocks before the season to be jolly. She added that Illuminations does not plug in its festive frills until Thanksgiving.

Sunset Park is flying its winter holiday flag, too, but the neighborhood’s commerce group said that its lights go up any time between the last week of October and the middle of November, depending on when Illuminations gets to them.

“Whenever they get them up, they go up,” said the district’s director, Renee Giordano. “It’s where we are on the schedule.”

You’re wearing THAT on Halloween?

Halloween is upon us once again as the streets fill with cute little goblins and ghouls running excitedly past jack-o'-lanterns on stoops, ringing doorbells and shouting, “Trick or Treat!” — and my teenaged daughters are dressed up like little vixens.

In the process, they have sucked the innocence out of the holiday for me. I remember fondly the years they dressed as Blue from “Blue’s Clues,” or Winnie the Pooh holding out a homemade honey pot asking for candy.

Crossing over from childhood to adolescence, their costumes and rituals morphed from sweet and adorable to risqué and racy. Once they were princesses in long, flowing gowns, sporting tiaras and wigs, perhaps with a wand or scepter. Now, even when made up as a superhero, every costume seems to include fishnets and something short and sheer that covers up very little of their bodies.

I certainly wouldn’t dress them this way, but I do understand the allure of shedding your everyday persona and trying on a different

character for a night. These are the years my girls are experimenting, testing what it feels like to be nice or mean, clean-cut or grungy, even drunk or sober. To put their sexy on as they wander the neighborhood in packs doesn’t meet my ideal, but I get it.

What I’ve come to dread is the required Halloween party, always planned for the nearest weekend. Same costumes but instead of noshing candy



The Dad

By Scott Sager

and roaming known streets, suddenly, my kids are drinking beer and pushing through crowded rooms filled with too many energetic teens. If All Hallows Eve permits children a little room for rowdiness and mischief, then mixed with alcohol and adolescents, it can become an

out-of-control concoction, inspiring wild behavior.

In this setting, trying to be a little racy or provocative could lead to unintended places, where testing the sexual waters with some strutting or flirting unexpectedly starts to involve actual bodily contact.

The evolution from little princess to seductive woman seems most perilous in these moments when my girls investigate things they may only partially understand that have consequences they cannot yet truly fathom.

I’m sure my daughters, exploring websites full of wom-

en’s costumes, notice the outfits for police officers, firefighters, witches, or devils are all clearly sexual and erotic. This is the world they want to examine, seeing what the adult landscape looks like.

I know they are playing, having fun, doing what young adults, anxious for that elusive maturity and all the freedoms it seems to hold, have done for generations.

What my teenagers may not get is that it is a lot easier to dress like an adult than to act like one.

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**Our money funds their
schools, lowers their
taxes, and sends our
jobs out of state.**

**It's time to
bring that
money back
to New York.**

**Your YES Vote on Proposal 1, the Constitutional Amendment
for Casino Gaming, will allow us to:**

- ☒ Create 10,000 new jobs
- ☒ Generate additional annual funding for our kids' schools in EVERY school district in the state
- ☒ Deliver real property tax relief



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Flip to the back of the ballot to vote YES on Proposal 1